


Parks Canada Participation in Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery

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[Editor's note: The author has provided his PowerPoint presentation. (29MB)

To view the presentation select the PowerPoint icon ]

Abstract

Garry oak ecosystems occur in a localized and unique area of Mediterranean climate due to the combined rain shadow from two mountain ranges. Perhaps as little as 1% of Garry oak ecosystems remain in Canada, which has resulted in a very high concentration of species at risk. To address conservation concerns in this area the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team has prepared a multi-species ecosystem-based recovery strategy and is working in collaboration with over 80 agencies and individuals to help restore habitat and species in this region.

Parks Canada has interests in the restoration and ecological integrity of Garry oak ecosystems for several reasons:

- Parks Canada is one three Federal Departments responsible for delivery of Canada's National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk.
- Parks Canada is identified as a responsible ministry for species at risk in Canada under Canada's proposed Species at Risk legislation.
- Parks Canada has a strong conservation mandate.
- Parks Canada has protected areas in this region and is creating a new national park in the Gulf Islands within the range of Garry oak ecosystems.

Parks Canada currently chairs the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team and participates on many of the Recovery Action Groups. Parks Canada has also been conducting invasive species control and research and compiling baseline data on lands under their jurisdiction. As the proposed Gulf Islands National Park is developed an accelerated program of study and recovery action is envisioned.